

# Analysis on the Relationship between Higher Education and Women's Status

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**Abstract.** In recent years, more and more women are appearing in major workplaces, taking up important positions, and women's self-identity is increasing. In China and the international community, there is a growing discussion about whether women should be housewives, and many people think that women should put the family first. The paper uses the Ordered Probit model to analyze the data from the China General Social Survey (CGSS). This research finds out that there is a significant correlation between educational attainment and women's recognition of being a housewife. The more educated people are, the less they agree that women should be housewives. This finding has important implications for social development. Combined with previous findings, women who receive high levels of education and work in the workplace are more likely to boost the educational attainment of the next generation. Therefore, promoting the development of education level is vital to encourage the development of the next generation and social progress.

**Keywords:** Education; CGSS; Female education; Housewife.

## 1. Introduction

With the development and progress of society, the status of Chinese women is improving, and the power of discourse is increasingly enhanced. More and more women in positions of power in the workplace, women's sense of self is also growing. With the opening up of society, the traditional Chinese idea that a woman without talent is virtuous is also changing. In today's society, people are paying attention to and discussing whether women should give up work and return to the family. It is found that female education level has a significant positive correlation with family income. With the increase in female education level, family income will also increase. The increase in female education negatively affects the number of children, indirectly increasing the family income. The number of children plays a mediating role in the influence of female education on family income [1]. With the increase in women's income, the relationship between men and women is equal, and then the construction of equal family relations is promoted [2]. Women with different levels of education have different expectations for their children's future development and therefore have different requirements for their children's education level. The educational level of parents and the educational time of children are directly proportional to the quality [3,4]. At the same time, scholars have found that students from socially advantaged families are more likely to receive better education and attend elite universities than students from socially disadvantaged families [5]. In contrast, more educated mothers pay more attention to early education to help their children grow up [6]. Thus, education is more conducive to the growth of the next generation. Female education is conducive to social progress and ideological inspiration [7]. At the same time, after receiving an education, women are more able to get rid of the shackles of traditional family concepts, pay more attention to protecting their rights and interests, and identify with themselves more [8]. The housewife's due rights in the family are damaged, the power level of the family is low, relatively passive, hidden behind more efforts and responsibilities, the housewife's subjectivity is ignored, and the status of the family is still weak compared with the husband [9]. Therefore, female education can encourage women to enter society and work, thus increasing income, improving family status, promoting gender equality, and promoting the growth of the next generation. Under such background, this paper will examine the correlation between education level and the people's agreed degree of women as housewives. Combined with previous research, women's access to high levels of education and social work can

boost the development of the next generation. The purpose of this paper is to research whether the improvement of education level can promote women's self-education and efforts to enter the workplace. There is currently less research on the correlation between education level and the recognition of women as housewives, which is also the significance of this study. The rest of the paper is arranged as follows: the second part introduces data sources, variable settings, research methods and research hypotheses, the third part is the conclusion, the fourth part is the comparative hypothesis, and the last part is the summary and revelation.

## **2. Method**

### **2.1. Data source**

This paper uses data from the 2018 China General Social Survey (CGSS). The survey scope is wide and the data volume is large. CGSS conducted the survey in 125 counties (districts), 500 subdistricts (townships and towns), 1,000 residents (village) committees and 10,000 households across the country. Through the regular and systematic collection of data on Chinese people and various aspects of Chinese society, it summarizes the long-term trend of social change, promotes the openness and sharing of social science research in China, and provides data for international comparative research. This paper mainly uses CGSS data to study the influence of education level on the identity of female housewives.

### **2.2. Variable setting**

The explained variable of this paper is the degree of recognition of women as housewives. This variable is determined by agreeing or not "men should put their careers first, women should put their families first". The respondents chose from five values ranging from 1 to 5. The higher the value, the more the individual agreed that women should be housewives.

The core explanatory variable of this paper is educational level (Education). In this paper, the educational level is divided into five levels: Primary school and below, Junior high school, Senior high school, Undergraduate, Postgraduate and above. The five levels are assigned a scale of 1-5. A higher value indicates a higher level of education.

In order to reduce the bias, a series of irrelevant variables were set as control variables: Whether the respondents have religious beliefs (Religion), Health status (Health, 1-5, the higher the value, the better the health status), and life happiness (Happy, 1-5, the higher the value, the better the health status).

### **2.3. Research method**

This paper refers to the Ordered Probit model used in the paper by Zhongwu Li and Xueliang Feng [10]. Because the explained variables were ordered discrete selections, the ordered probit model was used in this study. Firstly, the data is analyzed and processed, and then the sum command is used to make descriptive statistics on the data. Then the Ordered Probit model is used to analyze the education level (Education) and agree degree (Agree). The margin command is used to analyze the marginal effect of the data. Finally, the graph is drawn based on the margin model, and conclusions will be given by analyzing the chart.

### **2.4. Research hypothesis**

The research hypothesis of this paper is that education level has a significant impact on women's recognition of being housewives. The higher the education level, the less they agree that women should be housewives. This assumption is based on the family tradition. The ancient Chinese traditional thought that "Too much learning does not become a woman." [11]. As Chinese society becomes more and more open, this old idea is changing. Everyone is equal, and everyone can get an education. More and more people are promoting gender equality. Therefore, the assumptions made

in this paper is that education level has a significant impact on women's recognition of being housewives. The higher the education level, the less they agree with the research hypothesis that women should be housewives.

### 3. Results

**Table 1.** Descriptive statistics

Variable	Obs	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Agree	12, 708	3.135584	1.257116	1	5
Education	12, 708	2.058152	1.347185	0	5
Religion	12, 708	0.1068618	0.3089496	0	5
Health	12, 708	3.539739	0.8238142	0	1
Happy	12, 708	3.89424	1.080783	0	5

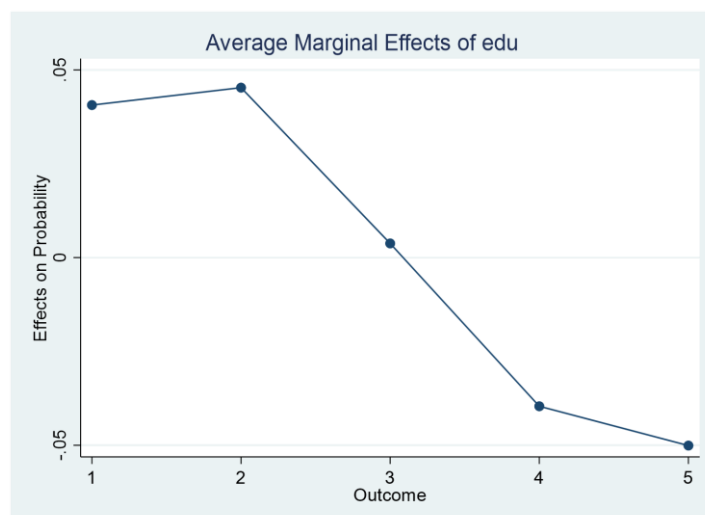
As shown in Table 1, the descriptive statistics of the main variables in this paper are listed. It can be seen that the mean value of Agree is 3.135584. Therefore, most people in this sample agree that women should be housewives, which is consistent with the current situation in Chinese society. Most people still believe that women should put family first. The average value of Education is 2.058152, which indicates that the education level of the sample in this paper is relatively low. It is consistent with the social phenomenon in China. Since the opening up of society, more and more people have been able to receive an education. However, most people in the 1980s and before had fewer opportunities to receive education, leading to an overall low level of education.

**Table 2.** Regression estimates

	Coef.
Education	-0.2375356
Control Variates	Yes

**Table 3.** The marginal effect of sub-sample estimation coefficients

Education	Marginal effect
Agree1	0.0406377
Agree2	0.0452733
Agree3	0.0037705
Agree4	-0.396033
Agree5	-0.500782
Control Variates	Yes



**Fig. 1** Average marginal effects of EDU

This paper uses Ordered Probit as the baseline regression for Agree and Education. The regression results are shown in Table 1. In the Ordered Probit regression result, the estimated coefficient is the marginal influence of the corresponding parameter on the explained variable. The results of marginal effects are shown in Table 2. From the perspective of marginal effect, for every unit increase of Education, the effects on probability with an Agree degree of 1 is 0.0406377, and the effects on probability with an Agree degree of 5 is -0.0500782. As can be seen from Fig.1, with the improvement of education level, fewer Agree to 5. According to this, education level has a significant impact on women's recognition of being housewives. The higher the education level, the less they agree that women should be housewives.

#### 4. Discussion

The hypothesis made at the beginning of this paper is that education level has a significant impact on women's recognition of being housewives. The higher the education level, the less they agree that women should be housewives. After comparison with the research results, the research hypothesis made in this paper is consistent with the research results. It can be seen that the improvement of education level can promote women to receive high-level education, and also promote women to enter the society to work. Combined with previous studies, women entering the workplace can improve family income, which can refresh the family status, promote family harmony, and promote the development of the next generation and social progress. However, researches and surveys have shown that women get less resources than men in the input of higher education resources, the gender differentiation of disciplines and majors in higher education is increasingly serious, teachers and male students have prominent gender stereotypes of female students in the process of higher education, the male-centered construction of higher education textbook system, gender inequality in the results of higher education and so on [12]. At the same time, studies show that gender equality is of great significance to the community of shared future of mankind, which can promote the development of the international community [13]. It can be seen that women are still in a vulnerable position in the society. The country should improve the level of education of citizens, which can promote gender equality and further promote the open development of society.

#### 5. Conclusion

This paper conducted a study on the effect of education level on women's agreement that they should be housewives, and the results of the study showed that education level has a significant effect on women's agreement that they should be housewives, and the more educated people are, the less they agree that women should be housewives. Combined with the previous studies, the high level of

education and excellent economic conditions of women can promote the growth of the next generation. This suggests that women should focus on self-development rather than giving up their education and work to return to the family completely. The results of this study found that the more educated people are, the less they agree that women should give up their jobs and studies to return to the family. It can be concluded that the improvement of education level can promote the development of the next generation and social progress. The limitation of this paper is that only one question was quoted in the survey on "the recognition of women as housewives", and the analysis was not comprehensive. Future research can examine this issue in more detail.

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